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# The Musical Journal

MARCH, 1909.

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Our readers will observe that the JOURNAL this month is considerably enlarged. For some time past the demand on our space has grown, and we have sometimes had to hold over interesting matter. We hope in future to avoid those delays, and to deal more fully with topics of real practical interest to those engaged in church music. It will be noted that although our pages are increased, the price remains the same.

The Gramophone Company now provides Morning Service according to the Church of England, thanks largely to the late Canon Fleming. The service is covered by eight records. Canon Fleming reads the prayers. The Psalms, Te Deum, Jubilate, &c., are sung by the choir of St. Andrew's, Wells Street, W. The whole service takes about 30 minutes. It is intended to make records of sermons by well-known divines, each sermon not to exceed four minutes. The records for the Matins service cost £2. The hymns are 3/6 each. Carols and anthems can also be had, so altogether a very interesting service can be obtained for invalids or those who for various reasons cannot attend public worship.

How best to raise the standard of church music in rural districts is a problem difficult to solve. The kind of music usually heard in country districts is not of a very elevated character, and to suddenly alter it for very high class music would probably be a mistake. The change must be gradual, and the people must be taught to appreciate better things by degrees. Unfortunately those in control so frequently think that compositions "that go with a swing"-such as many of the American tunes - are necessarily good music. It is true, possibly, that it is the only style the people in rural districts at present can use in common. But there is much good, yet easy, music that might be introduced to replace these jingling tunes which tickle the ear. The severe ecclesiastical style of music would of course be quite out of place and would not be appreciated. A wise selection of melodious, well-written compositions, would be welcomed in many country districts as a substitute for the present catchy, frivolous tunes. A minister, writing to a contemporary on this subject, says, "The musical portions of our services, in Sunday-school, the regular worship, and the mid-week meetings, represent the sum of the musical recreation of our people. If the music they use is ill suited to use in the church it may be replaced by something better. An attempt at sudden change will take away from the people what they have and believe to be right, and give them nothing in exchange which they can and will use. We are trying to make our musical work a means of helping our people. Our choir of twenty voices, is kept up by the young people who come from the Sunday-school. We have frequent song services in which a few new tunes of the best character are learned, and to which we make an effort to get all our people out. We have a class every winter for drill in note reading. We believe in making our church the best and natural social centre for our community, and we find in music a splendid help."

A new Sunday School Hymnal is being 'prepared for the Wesleyan, United Methodist, and Wesleyan Reform Churches. We are glad to know that it has been decided not to appoint an outsider as Editor. So many of the denominations of late have thought it necessary to get some prominent Church of England organist to undertake the musical part of the work in preparing a new Hymnal, forgetting that there are equally capable men in the ranks of the Free Churches who know what is wanted far better than a man who never enters a Nonconformist place of worship. The above-mentioned Methodists have appointed two committees, one to select the hymns, and the other the music, and these committees have decided to edit the work themselves, but they will seek the advice of an expert as to harmonies, etc. The whole arrangement is a move in the right direction.

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A lively discussion has taken place in a country church as to the method of announcing the hymns

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in service. Some maintained that the plan that had been in use in the church for years was the best, viz.: the minister to announce the number of the hymn, the tune then to be played: the minister afterwards to read as much of the hymn as he thought fit, followed by the singing. Others thought it would be better for the hymn to be given out and read, and then have the tune played, followed immediately by the singing. Undoubtedly the latter is the better plan. The object of playing the tune is that the choir and congregation may get hold of the melody and the time at which the hymn is to be sung. If a break is made between the playing of the tune and the singing, the melody, key, and tempo are all lost, with the result that a very poor start is made by the congregation.

Some enterprising individual has been trying the effect of a gramophone on the wild beasts at the Zoo. Perhaps he was not careful in choosing suitable selections, for he reports that the lions went to sleep, the sea-lions roared, the bears were perturbed, the jaguars indifferent, and the camels disconcerted. Evidently the latter had got "the hump."

The Nonconformist Choir Union attains its majority this year, and arrangements are being made to celebrate it in a fitting manner on the occasion of the twenty-first annual Festival, which it is proposed to hold at the Crystal Palace on July 3rd The syllabus of this Festival is now ready, and copies may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. Arthur Berridge, 24, Wallingford Avenue, North Kensington, W. For the past twenty years the Executive of the Union has steadily maintained the objects for which it was founded, i.e., to develop and improve the music of Nonconformist Church services, and to encourage the mutual co-operation of Nonconformist Church Choirs. To attain these objects it has been the practice of the Union to arrange Choral Competitions for large and small choirs, two prizes being

# NONCONFORMIST CHOIR UNION FESTIVAL, 1909.

In case some of our friends may have become alarmed at the announcement that an Official Receiver has been appointed to manage the affairs of the Crystal Palace Company, it may be well to state that Mr. Jackson, of the firm of Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, and Husey, Chartered Accountants, has been appointed Receiver and Manager by the Court, and he hopes to steer the Crystal ship into smoother waters.

Mr. Husey, who is representing Mr. Jackson at the Palace, told a Daily Chronicle representative the other day that there is no intention of closing the Palace. Their first business will be to restore public confidence; next, to try and make as much money as possible out of the Palace as a place of entertainment. Contracts are already made that extend far into 1910, and arrangements are going on as usual for the coming season.

offered in each section, and to give a grand Concert on the Handel Orchestra. The same course will be followed this year. Mr. Frank Idle, A.R.A.M., whose name is familiar in musical circles, will conduct. The chorus is expected to number over 4,000 voices, and will be assisted by a large orchestra, the soloist being Miss Edith Evans. Membership is open to every Free Church Choir in the United Kingdom; there is no entrance fee or subscription demanded; and as the facilities offered for obtaining good music in a cheap form and uniting in its interpretation are so unique, it is not surprising that so many choirs avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded, the educational value of which has been proved beyond doubt.

The Mendelssohn Centenary was celebrated on Feb. 3rd by various Concerts, Recitals, &c. Many of the daily papers had specially-written articles, some of them containing new items of information. Probably the most interesting of these was that by Mr. Joseph Bennett, in the Daily Telegraph, in which he gave the first draft of the libretto of "Elijah." Certainly not the least remarkable feature of the centenary was the fact that Sir Charles Santley sang the Prophet's part in "Elijah," at the Queen's Hall, with great success. His style is as good as ever, and his voice is marvellous for a man of his age. Of late there has been a tendency to disparage Mendelssohn, but it is clear he still holds his own.

The jubilee of the popular children's hymn, "There's a Friend for little children," was cele brated in Newport, I. of Wight (where Mr. Albert Midlane, the octogenarian writer of the hymn resides), on Sunday, February 7th. The Sunday Schools of the town assembled in the Market Place, where Mr. Midlane addressed them, giving interesting reminiscences of hymns and hymnwriters formerly connected with the Isle of Wight.

The date for our forthcoming Festival, July 3rd, has been confirmed by the manager of the Crystal Palace.

With respect to the Nonconformist Choir Union Festival, we have every prospect of a very successful Festival. 120 Choirs have already applied for affiliation, and between 70 and 80 choirs have ordered their books, and the orders are being fulfilled as fast as the printers and binders can supply the goods.

Mr. Idle has arranged a Conductors' Rehearsal to take place at Orange Street Chapel, St. Martin's Street, Leicester Square, on March 16th, to which all choirmasters and others interested are invited.

The musician should have the ear of the imagination. Without the intercession of the auricular organs he ought to perceive the niceties of intonation, colour, harmony, and dynamics; in a word, music, in its most complex expression. He should hear a chord by seeing it, and see it by hearing it. If he can not, he is not a musician in all that the name implies.

## Passing Notes.

LOOKING up some minor facts in musical biography the other day, it struck me that a curious and interesting subject of inquiry would be the great composers' personal relations with each other. It has often been remarked as strange that Handel and Bach, the greatest composers of their time, both Germans too, never once met. But Mozart and Haydn were devoted personal friends, while both of them gave Beethoven lessons in theory. Haydn, to be sure, rather neglected these lessons; but we can hardly wonder at that when we remember that Beethoven paid only 20 cents. a lesson, and that at the time Haydn had just come from overwhelming honours and high prices in England. This was in 1792. When, in 1794, Haydn was induced to make a second journey to London, he thought of taking Beethoven with him, but that young genius had irritated him so much that he called him "the Great Mogul," and left him behind in Vienna. Chopin and Mendelssohn, both born the same year, were very good friends. It was Mendelssohn who gave his brother composer the affectionate pet name of "Chopinetto." And, talking of a certain Chopin Prelude, he once said: "It is so perfectly beautiful that I could go on for ever playing it, all the more because by no possibility could I have written it."

We are hearing a great deal about Mendelssohn just now, for I am writing very near the centenary of his birth, which fell on February 3rd. Being an organist myself, I naturally think of Mendelssohn as an organist and as a composer for the instrument. I should have liked to hear Mendelssohn at that celebrated Christ Church, Newgate Street, recital, in 1837. It must have been a remarkable performance, for we are told that he played six extempore fantasias, and the Bach Prelude and Fugue in A minor which had suffered curtailment at St. Paul's the previous Sunday, when the organ blower maliciously let out the wind because the congregation would not leave. Isn't there some story of that kind about Handel, by the way? The lightness of his touch in rapid passages was specially noticed at this Christ Church performance. The touch of the instrument (built by Hill, to the specification of Dr. Gauntlett) was both deep and heavy, yet he "threw off arpeggios as if he were at the piano." It was Dr. Gauntlett who wrote of this visit: "He taught us how to play the slow fugue, for Adams and others had played them too fast. His words were: 'Your organists think that Bach did not write a slow fugue for the organ.' Also he brought out a number of pedal fugues which were not known here. We had played a few, but he was the first to play the D major, the G minor, the E major, the C minor, the short E minor, &c."

Various opinions have been expressed about Mendelssohn's abilities as an organist, but not by those who ever heard him in England. English organists, in

fact, said of him that he was unsurpassed by any native player of the time. I doubt, however, if that was not an exaggeration. Probably the glamour of his genius and winning personality did something to blind the judgment even of professional listeners. But allowing for this, all the evidence tends to show that Mendelssohn was, both in grasp and in method, a truly great organist. His technique may at times have been slightly deficient, especially as regards pedal playing. But considering the busy life which he led and the few opportunities which he had for practice, the enthusiasm which his recorded organ performances created must be regarded as peculiarly significant. And then what are we to say of him as a composer for the organ? His first organ sonata, almost by itself, inaugurated a new era in the handling of the instrument; and of all his compositions in this particular class we may say they are among the best that we have had since the time of Bach. The slow movements of his organ sonatas are as charming to me as anything he ever wrote.

Has any reader of these lines ever come across a hurdy-gurdy being played in the streets? Though the name of the instrument has been familiar to me as a "household word" since I can remember, I had never seen the instrument itself in actual use until quite recently, when I met with a wandering "professor" grinding out his "musie" in an Edinburgh back street. I suppose everybody knows that the hurdy-gurdy is a kind of violin played by a wheel arrangement, and with finger keys for "stopping" the strings. Listening to the quaint machine, I somehow felt myself transported away back to the time of the troubadours, when, according to the musical historians, the hurdy-gurdy had its greatest vogue. One can hardly imagine anybody actually making a hurdy-gurdy now, so I take it that when we do meet with a specimen it must be regarded as coming down from the time of Stradivarius or earlier. Did Stradivarius, or Guarnerius, or Amatie ever turn out a hurdy-gurdy? Perhaps it has never occurred to anybody to ask the question. But why not? For after all, the hurdy-gurdy is but a hybrid fiddle.

Some years ago a medical journal (American, to be sure) declared very seriously that music has a wonderful influence on the growth of the hair. If this be true, isn't it rather unkind of Sir Frederick Bridge to throw his sarcasm (very literally) at the heads of the "long-haired musical prigs?" Sir Frederick was speaking to the students of Trinity College, London. "Don't let your hair grow abnormally long," he said. "Often when a boy makes a little progress he comes with his hair nicely brushed, but after making further progress his hair is never brushed, and very seldom cut." Strange that hair should play such a part in music! If it is of so much importance, why not cultivate a beard—all the hair that nature will grow? "A clammy breed of youth, long-haired and bottle-shouldered, clamorous for notoriety"—that is how a certain class of musical performers were recently described by an English composer. And an English critic says that the British public "expect and look for a certain picturesque untidiness, an affectation of pose and manner," in their musicians. Who, then, is to be regarded chiefly—the British public or Sir Frederick Bridge?

J. Cuthbert Hadden.

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## Lines and Spaces.

By J. R. GRIFFITHS, MUS. BAC.

DR. NAYLOR'S description of how he came to write his opera "The Angelus," a work that had so successful a first hearing at Covent Garden a month ago, reads like an old fairy tale. In fact, it strongly reminds one of the mysterious stranger who called upon Mozart and induced him to write a Requiem. There are, however, important differences in the two cases; for while Mozart never identified his visitor, Dr. Naylor soon discovered in his an undergraduate of his own University. Then, apart from the difference in the character of the music, there is this important point, namely that Mozart did not live to complete his work, while Dr. Naylor has had the pleasure not only of seeing his opera finished, but also of seeing it presented under the most favourable conditions possible. For the benefit of those readers who may not have seen the story, I copy it verbatim as told to a press representative.

"The origin of this opera is somewhat curious. I was reading in my house one evening after dinner, when a servant brought in the card of a stranger who wished to see me. He was Dr. Wilfred Thornley, then a student. He said that he had heard that Messrs. Ricordi had offered £500 for the best opera in a competition they had organised, and he suggested that we should collaborate. At first the idea seemed to me rather humorous, especially as Thornley had made out no scenario. All that he had brought with him were some verses, a song of triumph by a young monk who, having found the herb of life, dared to challenge the Almighty. But at last I became enthusiastic, and, acceding to my request, Thornley wrote the libretto. I meanwhile had set this song to music—it is the concluding air in the third act—and then I commenced the prelude. The opera occupied me for fifteen months, and when it was finished I sent it to Messrs. Ricordi. In January of last year came the good news that it had won the prize of £500."

I am pleased to add that the work was most enthusiastically received, and bids fair to become popular. Let us hope this may be so, for we have not too many specimens of English opera.

My friend, Mr. Charles Darnton, has sent for my perusal a book of tunes I had not previously seen. It consists of tunes composed by the Rev. T. T. Lynch, the author of the words of those familiar hymns, "Gracious Spirit dwell with me," "Dismiss me not Thy service, Lord," and others. The work appeared in 1872, about two years after Lynch's death, and was published under the title, "Tunes to Hymns in 'The Rivulet.'" There is not much to say for the music, as the composer had never seriously studied composition. Indeed, the tunes here given were dressed up by his organist, Thomas Pettit. Probably Lynch only wrote the melodies. But the preface, written some time before his death, is quaintness itself, and worth quoting.

"If the members of the Mornington congregation "will do me the honour to examine these tunes I shall "be pleased; if they like them, still more pleased,

"But I must admit that I shall never be a person of "much note, or of many notes, in the musical world. 
"My occupations are meditative rather than musical, "and yet music helps me. Anyone crossing Oldpath "Meadows, towards Newlight Opening, may notice, "just by the turnstile, a cottage facing south. That "is mine. And if you should see a half-elderly gentle-"man leaning over the garden gate, do not think if he "is 'beating' time with his fingers he is therefore "wasting it. Some verse that he cares for is setting "itself to music in his mind, as he watches the play of light and shadow on the hills and over the country. "This person, busy thus whilst resting from other "work, is the composer of these tunes.

"THEODORE BARKESON."

The many admirers of Mr. Josiah's Booth's tunes in the Congregational and other hymnals, will be interested in seeing this composer's "Hundred Hymn Tunes," just published by Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. Nearly half this number are quite new, and will probably be heard of later. A few new features are here introduced, one of which is the providing of a second tune to suit the middle verses when the sentiment of those verses demands different treatment from the opening and closing verses. It is not a little singular that Mr. Booth's favourite time signature is four in a bar, and bis key signature four sharps, eighty-five per cent. of his tunes being in common time, and about a sixth in the key of E major!

With the publication of "Psalms and Canticles," Mr. Garrett Horder completes what he describes as "the completest provision ever made for church worship." The main features of this present and concluding volume are briefly these: (a) absence of imprecatory verses in the psalms; (b) employment of semibreves, minims, etc., to indicate exact time for the words or syllables in the "imaginary" bar in the recitatives; (c) absence of unnecessary commas; (d) employment of an Amen instead of a Gloria at the end of some psalms; (e) the providing of twenty-four "Scripture Sentences for the Opening of Worship;" and (f) the printing of the Canticles-the Magnificat, etc.-in the Prayer Book version rather than according to the Bible version. The book will amply repay careful perusal.

Yet another new publication I would like to say a word about, namely, the Brotherhood Song Book. Not that the collection of 105 Songs contains much new matter, whether in words or music. It is to a certain extent upon the same lines as most hymnals compiled for the use of Men's Meetings, P.S.A.'s, and the like. Perhaps there are a greater number

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than usual of good standard church tunes, a feature with which I thoroughly agree. Very often such compilations contain hymns of such a childish nature that it is an insult to a man's intelligence to ask him to sing them. The special feature of this book is the fact that not a single one of the 105 tunes goes higher than D. Thus men can join in the melodies of every one of them-an important point in men's meetings. The prices are reasonable, too, the words being obtainable for a penny, and the music for ninepence.

It may interest our readers to know that some wellknown tunes become non-copyright this year. Among several others I may mention the following:

S. Lucy (Rev. H. J. Poole, 1843-1897) Bethany and Regent Square (Henry Smart, 1813—1879).

Holyrood (James Watson, 1816—1880). Mount Zion (Sir Arthur Sullivan, 1842—1900). Sudeley (Sir John Stainer, 1840-1901).

All these well-known tunes appeared not later than 1867, and all copyright interests concerned therewith will expire this year.

## Criticism of Short Compositions.

WE are prepared to give brief criticisms on short compositions sent in for that purpose. The conditions are these:—(1) Not more than one composition must be sent at a time. (2) No MS. can be returned unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. (3) To every MS. must be attached the name and address of the sender and the coupon found in the advertisement columns of the current issue. (4) Compositions (with "Criticism" marked outside the envelope) must be sent to our office, 29, Paternoster Row, London, E.C., by the end of the month. Criticisms will appear in the May issue.

If desired, a more detailed criticism will be sent by post on payment of one shilling for a tune or chant, or at the rate of one shilling par page (outsye size) for an anthem.

at the rate of one shilling per page (octavo size) for an anthem.

G. MINOR. The 7.7.7.5. tune is simple and somewhat commonplace, but correctly harmonized. The A natural in the melody and the 2 chord in the harmony of bar 3 are points needing re-consideration. A super-tonic 7th would be better than a triad on the first beat of bar 4. E would be preferable to F in the alto of the third chord of bar 5. The part-writing is rather monotonous, but "G minor" is, as he suggests, "pro-ceeding on the right lines," both with reference to text-books and to efforts in composition. We shall hope to see more of the latter.

J.S. sends an excellent tune to "Jesus, high in glory." The melody is flowing and well suited to children's voices. E might be a better key for the latter, but the part-writing is most interesting, and the tune ought to be very popular as an anniversary item. Something should be struck on the second beat of her 6, and on the second and fourth beats of her 6. of bar 6, and on the second and fourth beats of bar 12. In bar 4, F, a dotted minim, would be better than the present notes, E and D. The slurred progression of a chromatic semitone, on the last beat of bar 13, is weak,-a weakness much affected by American writers. C, a dotted minim, in the tenor of bar 8, would be smoother against the sustained C of the treble.

"KORSTEN" is an effective tune, carefully har-monized. In the 8th line the melody is weak; the hidden 8ves between the bass and treble, faulty; and the bare dominant chord, without a 3rd, thin. The too frequent occurrence of dotted notes in all the parts causes the rhythm to stagnate. A dominant chord would be better at the commencement; A, instead of the first G sharp, in the tenor of the 4th line; and A, G sharp—minims—in the tenor of the last bar in the 7th line. The unfinished effect of the 2 at the end of the 7th line might be avoided by placing, on the second beat, the 1st inversion of the dominant 7th in A; and, on the third beat, the root position of the triad of A. Why not transpose the tune into E flat?

"MORNINGTON" is somewhat commonplace, especially in the melody of the 4th and 6th lines. The skip of a 7th by two steps, in the melody of the 3rd line, is awkward. The part-writing of the chords connecting lines 1 and 2 needs revision. The progression

in the tenor from bars 4 to 5 involves a tritone. The similar motion between all the parts, in proceeding from bar 5 to 6, is weak. The consecutive 8ves between bars 2 and 3, and bars 5 and 6, are possible (being between different phrases), but they are not pretty. A careful study of counterpoint would greatly help the composer of this tune.

## DON'T IGNORE DISCIPLINE.

WERE the study and practice of music of no other advantage to young people, it would still be of great value in this respect, namely: that it does, or ought to do, encourage habits of industry and systematic appli-cation to a given task,—a lesson of the greatest im-portance to the young, for often it is just upon the possession or non-possession of such habits of industry that success or non-success in the struggle of later life

depends.

It is in music study especially that the need of daily, systematic practice is felt by the pupil. He finds that after a couple of months of slipshod, haphazard practice his progress has been slow and understand the compares his results with those of satisfactory. He compares his results with those of some friend who has practised diligently, and he sees he is being left behind; his ambition is aroused, and he comes to understand that it is only by means of regular daily practice that he will be able to progress in a satisfactory manner.

The results attained by one who, perhaps, works hard for two hours Monday, fifteen minutes Tuesday, hard for two hours Monday, fifteen minutes Tuesday, goes to the matinée Wednesday, has a streak of industry and practices an hour on Thursday, and so on, are certain to be unsatisfactory. On the other hand, one is bound to progress rapidly and satisfactorily who devotes to practice, say, only three-quarters of an hour each day, regularly; and, if five minutes are lost one day, ten will be made up the next. In every case impress the advantage of discipline, which remains if all else is lost.

The teacher gives an exposition of the general principles of technique; he also demonstrates the way to do a thing, but he cannot make you play or sing without your own diligent co-operation, however apt you may be.

## Mr. Jer. Stones, and Brunswick Wesleyan Choir.

BRUNSWICK WESLEYAN CHAPEL is a fine looking building in the Classical style of architecture, and is one of the largest chapels in Leeds, having seating capacity for over 2,000 persons. At the time of its installation the Organ was one of the largest in the North of England. "Opened in 1827 by Dr. Samuel Wesley, and renovated in 1846 by Francis Booth, of Wakefield," reads the tablet on the front of the organ.

The original specification of the organ is to be found in "Hamilton's Catechism of the Organ." Some of the original diapasons are still in use, beautifully mellow in tone. The organ has surely



MR. JER. STONES.

the most remarkable history of any organ. At a critical period in the history of Methodism, when the spirit of autocratic government came into sharp conflict with a rising flood of democratic ideas, each side was keenly watching the other, and the "Brunswick Organ" case precipitated a crisis which resulted in a separation. "The real question at stake was as to the rights of the 'District Meeting.' By a law of Conference, if such an innovation on the recognised usage as the erection of an organ were to be permitted, the proposal must have the sanction of the 'District Meeting.' In this case an overwhelming majority of the District Meeting decided against such an addition to Brunswick Chapel, Leeds. The Conference took a high hand, and, after the merest show of constitutional proceeding appointed a superintendent to Leeds pledged to carry out the organ scheme in spite of all opposition. Clearly, if this were legitimate, the rights and privileges of the District Meeting were unsubstantial. A thousand members seceded from the Leeds Circuit and formed a separate Body known as Protestant

Methodists, afterwards merged into the United Methodist Free Church."—p. 295, "Popular His-tory of the Free Churches," Rev. Sylvester Horne.

At the first meeting in the Provinces on behalf of the Million Guinea Fund, held at Brunswick, the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes referred to the organ as the most costly in existence. Most probably the "organ question" was the occasion of a difference of opinion, and not the primary cause. The famous Edward Booth, editor of "Booth's Psalmody," was the first organist, and he it was probably who laid the foundations of the fine congregational singing which obtains up to the present day. Mr. Booth held the position for 50 years, from 1827 to 1877, and was succeeded by Mr. George Hirst, composer of "Olivet," 1877 to 1882. He was followed (1882 to 1892) by Mr. E. A. Keighley, a remarkably fine organist; and Mr. Elvey, for a brief space, 1892 to 1896. Next followed Mr. Jer. Stones, the present organist and choirmaster, who was appointed in 1896, during his last term at Westminster Training College. Five organists in 80 years speaks well for the church and the men. Mr. Stones has had some good men to follow, and pays due regard to the selection of his organ music.

The organ occupies the whole of one end of the chapel, and is covered in by a case of Spanish mahogany, richly carved. The organ was rebuilt and enlarged in 1903, at a cost of £1000, by Messrs. Abbott & Smith, of Leeds.

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Viol d'Amour	8 ,,	Violin e'Cello	8	
Principal	4 ,,	Voix Celeste	8	
Harmonic Flute	4 ,,	Contra Fagatto	16	99
Trumpet	8 "	Cornopean	8	
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CHOIR ORGAN		PEDAL ORGAN.		
Double Dulciana	16 ft.	Double Open Diap.	32	ft.
Open Diap.	8	Open Diap.	16	
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Viol-di-Gamba	8 "	Bourdon	16	22
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A visitor to the weekly choir practices quickly discovers that their leader is held in high esteem by his large choir of over one hundred voices. The rehearsal invariably opens with breathing and voice exercises. Mr. Stones is the possessor of a good tenor voice, which serves him well in "patterning" phrases, etc. He is a member of the Leeds Choral Union, and was a member of the Chorus which went to Germany in 1906. His vocation, that of a schoolmaster under the Leeds Education Committee, has been a valuable help in overcoming that stumbling-block of many good conductors, viz.: the difficulty of articulating clearly and concisely their ideas on any composi-tion. The constant practice of speaking to an audience enables Mr. Stones to face a large chorus with composure and self-possession, and to present in clear speech his ideas and suggestions. Fertility of idea is moderately common, but the ability to express one's self clearly is much rarer, and its presence is a great help in the advancement of a musician, especially so far as choir training is

Works given during recent years include the "Messiah," "Elijah," "Creation," Stainer's "Crucifixion," "Daughter of Jairus," Cowen's "Rose Maiden," Barnett's "Building of the Ship," etc. An anthem is sung every Sunday evening. As before mentioned, good congregational singing is a feature of the Sunday services.

Brunswick Choir has a fine library of music. large number of the standard anthems is included in this list, and in the painstaking hand of Mr. Mennell, the Secretary, these are kept in excellent order. A peep at their library would send many a choir secretary away conscience smitten. Madame Beaumont (soprano), and Miss Enid Grimshaw contralto), are the two salaried principals. Mr. E. Booth (bass) has been associated with the

choir for over thirty years.

Mr. Stones has been connected with the Leeds Day School Concerts since their inception, and has held office as Conductor of the Leeds Assistant Teachers' Choral Society and the Bramhope Choral Society. His present appointments include the Conductorships of the Leeds Nonconformist Choir Union (1000 voices), third year in succession, and the Wetherby and District Choral Society. The Leeds Commercial Travellers' Temperance League is a powerful organization, holding high-class concerts fortnightly, and for the series Mr. Stones is solo pianist and accompanist. He also sustains this position for the Belgrave Popular Weekly Concerts, and is selected as Adjudicator for a Northern Eisteddfodd. Standing as he does al-most on the threshold of his musical career, he occupies an enviable position for so young a man. He carries with him the good wishes of many friends secured to him by his sunny character and affability.

## Correspondence.

### ARE RULES FOR CHOIRS NECESSARY?

DEAR SIR,

I do not see how any organization can continue without some understanding as to methods of procedure. A large number of choirs has rules which are "understood" but not printed. With a choirmaster full of tact, and an enthusiastic choir, the absence of formulated rules may not be particularly noticed. But human nature being what it is, the dilatory and careless chorister turns up in most choirs sooner or later. The chorister turns up in most choirs sooner or meer. The onus of dealing with him or her should not rest upon any individual, least of all upon the choirmaster. By all means have "understood rules" reduced to writing or printing, and posted up where all the members of the choir must see them. Better still, give every member a copy on entering the choir, and the chorister will see the reasonableness of regulations on joining the choir.

Have a choir committee with two or more co-opted trustees to deal with cases where rules are not observed. It will rarely be necessary to call a committee together, because few choristers will cause trouble, when rules are printed, and their cases are to be dealt with in an impartial manner by the elders of the church. Yours faithfully, AN OLD CHORISTER.

DEAR SIE.—Having seen the correspondence in your Journal re Rules for Voluntary Choirs, I must disagree with your correspondent who says rules are absolutely necessary for paid choirs, but not for voluntary choirs. My experience points the other way. If you are paying your singers you have more control, or, shall I say, you expect to have their obedience, as they are to a certain extent your servants. But a voluntary choir who give their services don't like being "bossed,"

as the Yorkshireman would say. There should be enthusiasm; indeed; there must be, to get any good at all out of a choir, voluntary or otherwise; but when a singer joins a choir, he or she should have put before them a code of rules so that they may know what is expected of them. There must be some understanding to attendance at rehearsals and services, conduct being in their own place and not occasionally sitting with the congregation, taking care of music, punctuality, etc. Where these things are put before the candidate for membership, in cold print, no excuse exists for saying, "I didn't know this rule.": it often saves unpleasantness. I don't believe in officialism in choirs, and I believe in the choirmaster being the choirmaster; but there is room for at least a secretary, treasurer, registrar, and librarian. The secretary need not usurp the choirmaster's duties, but he can be very useful to the choirmaster by helping him in many ways, as also can the others in their respective spheres. The choirmaster with plenty of tact can make rules a great assistance. A lot of responsibility is taken off his shoulders if he has them to point to when any of the singers are inclined to rebel or kick over the traces. I have been a choirmaster close on 30 years, and have had six choirs. The one which was the least translation of the contract of the least translation. one which was the least trouble and anxiety, and which I had eight years, had a code of rules. All had a copy given on entering the choir, and a new one supplied at the annual meeting year by year: and rules were not often broken.

Yours faithfully, JOHN S. WITTY. Organist and Choirmaster,
Manningham P.M. Chapel.
Bradford, Yorkshire.

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## The Composer of " Warrington."

By J. CUTHBERT HADDEN.

Handel, in his bluff way, declared that parsons should leave music severely alone. The great composer once grudgingly admitted a minor Canon of Gloucester Cathedral to his oratorio choir. The Canon asked for a solo part and got it. The performance turned out a failure, and the poor cleric was hissed off the platform. "Good bye, my dear sir," said Handel, "I am sorry, very sorry for you, But go back to your church in the country; God will forgive you for your bad singing: these wicked people in London, they will not forgive you."

And who does not know that story of the Rev. W. Felton, of Handel's time, who had published some organ concertos which were well received? Felton had opened a subscription for a second set of concertos, and he appealed to Mr. Brown, the leader of His Majesty's band, and a great friend of Handel, to solicit Handel's permission to insert his name in the list of



subscribers. Brown doubted not of success, but he was rudely disappointed. He came upon Handel in the barber's one morning, and sprung the Felton request on him at once. Thrusting the barber's hand aside, Handel got up in a fury, his face still in a lather, and with great vehemence exclaimed: "Damn yourself and go to the devil. A parson make concertos! Why, he no make sermons!"

The obvious answer, of course, is that a parson may make concertos as well as sermons and do credit to himself by the one as well as by the other. Our church music, at any rate, would have been much the poorer without the productions of the musical clergyman, from the days of this unfortunate divine who roused Handel's wrath, down to the more modern times of the Rev. J. B. Dykes and the Rev. Sir Frederick Gore-Ouseley. On the present occasion I propose to speak of one reverend composer only—the man who gave us that fine old tune "Warrington," which neither I nor any other church musician would like to be without.

Very little has hitherto been recorded of the Rev Ralph Harrison; and the silhouette portrait which I am happily able to give, seems to have escaped the attention of all hymn tune historians, with the exception of my friend Mr. James Love, who has kindly lent me the rare work in which it appears. Mr. Harrison's history is told most fully in Sir Thomas Baker's "Memorials of a Dissenting Chapel," which has for its frontispiece an illustration of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, as it appeared in 1856.

Ralph Harrison was a member of a family noted in the history of Nonconformity. Tracing itself from the Rev. Cuthbert Harrison, who was ejected from Lurgan, in Ireland, it has, through six generations, had one or more of its members in the ministry. I have looked up the life-history of Cuthbert Harrison, the ejected minister, and find it interesting in a half-amusing, halfpathetic way. On his ejectment, he returned to his native place near Kirkham, in Lancashire, and while there he was excommunicated, and forcibly put out of the church by the vicar, who afterwards sued him for penalties for absenting himself from church. It is the funniest case of which I have ever read. The judge before whom Harrison was arraigned, saw the iniquity of the proceedings, and in addressing the jury is reported to have thus commented on it: "There is fiddle and be hanged, and fiddle not and be hanged. The defendant was under church censure which prevented him going to church; he goes to church and is put out and sued upon the statute for not going to church! Gentlemen, pray consider it." And the "gentlemen" did. Like sensible men, they "found" in favour of the ejected minister from Lurgan, and the vindictive vicar was finally dished.

But I must get forward with my subect proper. Our composer, the Rev. Ralph Harrison, was born September 10th, 1748, at Chinley, in Derbyshire, where his father was minister of a rural chapel. On his mother's side he was connected with the old Nonconformist families of Cooper, Angier, and Mosley. He was educated at Warrington Academy, whence, of course, we derive the name of his famous tune. The names of tunes might well be made the subject of a special article: it would bring out many autobiographically interesting points. Something has already been done in that direction by Mr. James T. Lightwood in his "Hymn Tunes and their Story," but the subject is capable of much more exhaustive treatment.

Ralph Harrison, at any rate, did not forget Warrington when he came to choose a name for the tune which has perpetuated his own name. When he left Warrington Academy, he was appointed to the care of a congregation in Hale, Cheshire. He remained there for two years, and then was settled as assistant at the Unitarian Chapel, High Street, Shrewsbury. Subse-

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quently, in November, 1771, he was chosen to succeed Mr. Mothershead at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, and he preached his first sermon there on the last Sunday of the year, December 29th. Soon after his settlement, he married Miss Ann Touchet, and thus formed a connection with one of the oldest of Manchester families.

In addition to his ministerial duties, Mr. Harrison, as I learn from Sir Thomas Baker, employed himself in the education of youth. Of the great ability he showed in this direction, he received the testimony of highly competent judges. Indeed his repute as a teacher of ancient languages "was so widely spread as to draw to Manchester sons of persons of rank at a distance, and, among others, those of the Marquis of Waterford, attended by their accomplished tutor, M. de Polier." On the establishment of the Academy in Manchester for the education of young men for the ministry, Harrison was appointed one of the tutors.

His death took place on the 4th of November, 1801. A funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. John Holland, of Bolton, and if you are curious, you may read it to-day at the end of a volume of Harrison's own sermons, printed under the direction of the composer's son, the Rev. William Harrison. "Ralph Harrison," says Sir Thomas, Baker, "published an English Grammar, which has been reprinted, and two volumes of Psalm tunes, which include some of his own compositions." The Grammar we are not interested in; the psalm tunes may briefly engage our attention.

Two volumes of these were published, under the title of "Sacred Harmony: A Collection of Psalm Tunes, Ancient and Modern, set in Four Parts." The date of the first volume was 1784, that of the second, 1791. In his preface Harrison tells us that he had formed the design of bringing together a collection of tunes for the Manchester district, and especially for his own chapel. No local collection had been issued for many years; and after he had, as he says, vainly tried to induce others to undertake the work, he began it himself, though, he modestly admits, he "boasts no extraordinary talent in music."

There are several tunes of his own scattered throughout the two volumes. "Warrington" appears in the first volume. The original Key is D, in which the tune is never sung now. Mr. Love, in his "Scottish Church

Music," speaks of the common setting in B flat as "absurd," but I hesitate about adopting his adjective. We might indeed try "Warrington" in C, but D is certainly too high for the average choir and congregation. In my experience the B flat setting sings very well, and though I am opposed on principle to the tinkering of a composer's original, I think this is a case fully justified by expediency.

I may add that Harrison himself had no scruples about altering the works of other composers. I believe I am right in saying that he was the first to make the grand old tune "Miles' Lane" almost unrecognizable under the perverted form of "Scarborough." This was how he managed it:



The Scottish Presbyterians early got hold of this corrupt version, and made another out of it for themselves, with the second line ending in this way—



Here was an even greater injustice to Shrubsole than Harrison had been guilty of; for Shrubsole's intention in carrying the voices right down to the lower octave was evidenly to make his music accord with the words—"Let angels prostrate fall." Happily we are more reverent to our hymn-tune composers now.

It was a Scotch village of very primitive type, and an English family with a motor car came to it, having taken the laird's house for the summer. All the family, including an old lady who was very deaf, and who used an ear trumpet, attended kirk on the first Sabbath. The congregation all stared at the ear trumpet, such a thing having never been seen before. At last the precentor rose to the occasion. He went down the aisle looking severely at the old lady, and said, "The first toot, and ye're oot."

## PRIZE COMPETITION.

A PRIZE is given each month for a musical composition. This month a prize of £4 4s is offered for the best Harvest Anthem—not too difficult. The selection of words is left to the competitors, but if copyright words are used, a letter granting us free use of them must be sent with the MS.

The conditions are as follows:—(1) MSS., marked outside "Competition," must be sent to our offices, 29, Paternoster Row, London, E.C., not later than the last day of the month—March 31st. (2) To annual

subscribers the competitions are open free; a sixpenny postal order must be enclosed with every MS. sent in by non-subscribers. (3) Each MS. must be marked with a nom-de-plume, and must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the name and address of the composer. (4) No MS. will be returned unless a stamped addressed envelope is sent for that purpose. Every care will be taken, but we cannot be responsible in case of loss. The result will be announced in our May issue. (5) Our decision shall be final.

## Mr. Stewart Macpherson, F.R.A.M.

Musicians frequently have the reputation of moving very much in one groove. Often when a man is recognized as a great authority on a particular branch of musical study it is almost impossible for him to have a very varied outlook, and probably the "all round" men have more interesting experiences. Mr. Stewart Macpherson's experiences have certainly been wide and varied, and whether as a composer, teacher, examiner, writer, or performer, he is always brilliant, and is regarded as one of the most successful and accomplished musicians of the present day.

The subject of this article was born in Liverpool, March 29th, 1865, but as his parents moved

to London in about a year after his birth, the great Mersey seaport can hardly claim him as one of their musical celebrities. When old enough the child took pianoforte lessons from a lady, and later when sufficiently advanced, from Mr. Thos. Fox, a local professor in South London. After spending a period in a private school for his general education, the boy was sent to the City of London School, where he had the good fortune to be under that great Headmaster Dr. Edwin A. Abbott.

Young Macpherson from his very early years was exceedingly fond of music and made excellent progress under his teachers. When only fifteen years of age his parents, with a view of interesting him still more in music, sent him in to compete for an open Scholarship

at the Royal Academy of Music, and he came out successful, although some of the other candidates were considerably older than he. Now came the crucial question whether he should take up the Scholarship. The intention had hitherto been that he should go to Cambridge as a classical student. Sir G. A. Macfarren and Mr. Walter Macfarren, two most capable judges, seeing great promise in the youth, strongly urged the parents to allow him to proceed with his musical studies. Happily the advice was taken, but Mr. Macpherson very wisely insisted that his son's general education should go on at the same time.

At the R. A. M. young Macpherson studied the pianoforte under the late Mr. Walter Macfarren, and composition under the then Principal, the late Sir G. A. Macfarren. So diligently did he work that he gained the Balfe Scholarship in 1882, the Charles Lucas Medal for Composition in 1884, and the Potter Exhibition in 1885. At the conclusion of his studentship he was appointed Professor of Harmony and Composition at the Academy, and at the same time was made an Associate of that Institution. In 1892 he received the Fellowship for distinction in the musical profession.

In 1885 Mr. Macpherson was appointed organist and choirmaster at Immanuel Church, Streatham Common, a position he held till 1897, when he decided to give up Sunday duty. His work in

teaching, examining, conducting and writing, had grown so fast that Sunday rest was absolutely necessary. Another reason was that his work, other than church work, interested him so strongly that he naturally and wisely threw all his energies into it.

In 1885 Mr. Macpherson was appointed conductor of the Westminster Orchestral Society, which for several years did excellent work, especially in giving a hearing to the compositions of native composers, when they had far fewer opportunities of being heard than now. To the regret of all, Mr. Macpherson had to resign this position in 1902, again through the pressure chiefly of educational and literary work.

The Streatham Choral Society was founded by Mr. Macpherson in 1886,

(Photo. by Histed. and under his able conductorship became one of the most flourishing suburban societies. The choir usually numbered about 180 members, and, with the assistance of a capable orchestra of professional players, gave during its existence nearly all the most notable choral works, ancient and modern. He remained at the desk till 1904, when he relinquished all work of that character.

In 1898 Mr. Macpherson was appointed an Examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, an appointment he still holds in conjunction with his professorship of the R.A.M. As an Examiner he has visited Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, and South Africa. His first tour (of rather more



ME. STEWART MACPHERSON, F.R.A.M.

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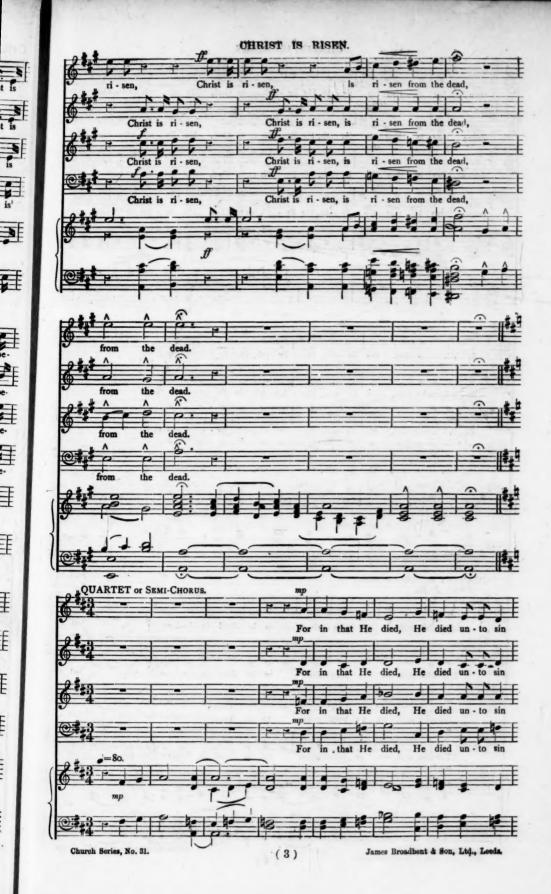
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than six months duration) was taken in 1900. On June 2nd he and his wife started for America, the examination ground covering the Dominion of Canada, the whole of Queensland, the northern part of New South Wales, and the whole of New Zealand. The experiences (and the necessary work) of such an extended journey were very interesting. For instance, on arriving at Brisbane, Mr. Macpherson found no less than 700 papers in Elements of Music, Harmony and Counterpoint to examine. A week's quiet but hard work disposed of the bulk of them. Although many were altogether creditable, some amusing curiosities were here and there discovered. Here are

Q. Define an Arpeggio.
A. (i) A chord the bottom note of which is shaken alternately with those above.

(ii) A group of cords (sic) consisting of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd inversions. (iii) A running chord; all the notes run after

one another. Give the meaning of sf.
(i) Sol-forte—solemn and loud.
(ii) In smothered tones.

Mr. Macpherson was agreeably suprised at the result of the examinations in Queensland. The candidates were mostly of a decidedly good average of merit, and considering the few opportunities the pupils and teachers alike have of hearing good music, they were remarkably successful. He is of opinion that there are excellent openings in many of the cities and towns of the Commonwealth for young musicians of real ability. It was in Wellington, New Zealand, that Mr. Macpherson had his most remarkable experience. Amongst the candidates entered at that centre were thirty-nine from St. Mary's Convent, and he says that so far as the vocal department was concerned, on no other occasion, at home or abroad, has he found in one institution (other than such as the R. A. M and R.C.M.) such a number of beautiful voices admirably trained. He was compelled to pass every candidate, and thirteen of them with honours. In all the centres he found the average standard

of merit distinctly good.

In 1905 South Africa was visited, where Mr. Macpherson found the Dutch portion of the community especially keen, at any rate from the point of view of examination successes, which may (or

may not!) indicate real musical progress.

Mr. Macpherson is principal Professor of Musical Composition at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, a work in which he is much interested. He does all his work through the ear. The students play all their exercises and compositions to him, and then he comments on and criticises them. Nearly all the students are able to realize mentally anything that is played to them, largely owing to being taught through the ear, and not through the eye, as is unfortunately the case generally. Mr. Macpherson has several most promising pupils at this Institution, viz.: Emily Lucas, whose dramatic Scena Maud (for soprano solo and orchestra) was produced at a "Patrons Fund" Concert at Queen's Hall last summer; Horace Watling, who is now writing a

most original overture; and a young fellow named Victor Spanner (barely 18 years old) who has just written the sketch of a concerto for piano and orchestra. Mr. Macpherson lectures once a fortnight to the whole college on such subjects as "Form," "The Technique of the Instruments of the Orchestra," "Beethoven's Nine Symphonies," "The History of the Concerto," &c., &c.

Mr. Macpherson is a member of the Board of Musical Studies in the University of London; a member of the Philharmonic Society of London; and lectures very frequently with great acceptance at the Royal Academy of Music and other institutions. The subjects of his lectures are as varied

as they are interesting.

The Music Teachers' Association which has recently been formed enlists Mr. Macpherson's warmest encouragement, and he acts as chairman of the committee. It is a body of earnest young teachers, who are seeking to apply in far greater degree than obtains at present, sound educational methods to the teaching of music, particularly in school, and who wish to see the art of listening to music cultivated rationally and systematically amongst young people.

The exact objects of the M. T. A. are these:-

To promote progressive ideas upon the teaching of music, especially with a view to the more educative treatment of the subject in schools.

To press upon heads of schools, and to stimulate and maintain amongst teachers, a recognition of the important and often overlooked fact that music is a literature, and should be taught and studied from that point of view.

(iii) To insist most strongly—as a preparation for this "art of listening"—upon the necessity of systematic ear-training from early childhood.
(iv) To promote class-singing, in which singing at sight shall be the chief aim, as an invaluable means of ear-training, and of the cultivation of systemic and properties.

rhythmic and melodic perception.

(v) To realize that the amount of time at the disposal of the average boy or girl for the overcoming of the technical difficulties of an instrument is, in the nature of things, usually insufficient to make them even passable executants, and that it would be a wise thing to devote a certain amount of time to bringing the pupils into living touch with music itself, by means of carefully graded classes, in which the teacher should play to the pupils, giving them a simple and intelligent description of the form and character of the music, asking questions from time to time, in order to ascertain how much

has been grasped by the class.

(vi) Encouragement of more definite and systematic preparation for the art of music-teaching, by means of courses of lectures by specialists on such subjects as Ear-training, Form or Design in Music, Musical History, and other matters relat-ing to the teaching of Music.

This Association is likely to have a far-reaching

influence in the right direction.

Some three years ago Mr. Macpherson instigated his Royal Academy students to form a Reading Club, as he had long felt how narrow most musical students generally tend to become in their range of interests. It was taken up keenly, and now numbers considerably over 100 members. Mr. Macpherson usually chooses a list of six books each term-two of which each member is bound to read, at least. The subjects are varied. Biography, "belles lettres," poetry, an occasional standard work of fiction, but, save in special cases, no musical subjects. Each term the members meet at his house, and some read papers on what they have read, or they have, perhaps, a University Extension lecturer to lecture to them. Mr. Macpherson has been delighted with the success of the club

Mr. Macpherson's publications include Practical Harmony (now in its 10th edition, besides being translated into German); Practical Counterpoint; Rudiments of Music; 350 Exercises in Harmony, Counterpoint, and Modulation; Questions and Exercises on the Rudiments of Music: and Form in Music, just issued. The circulation of these

books has reached a total of about 37,000 copies. His compositions (published and unpublished) include Mass in D, for solo, chorus, and orchestra; Violin Concerto in G minor; Ballade for orchestra, Idyll for orchestra, Nocturno for orchestra, Symphony in C, overtures, chamber music, pianoforte pieces, and church music.

In 1895 Mr. Macpherson married Leonora Frances, eldest daughter of W. G. Kemp, Esq., M.D., late of Wellington, New Zealand.

Truly Mr. Macpherson has a busy and strenuous life, but he loves his work, and takes a deep interest in all his pupils. No wonder he is always popular and highly esteemed by all who know him. May he have a long and happy life to carry on his most useful work.

Broad Nib.

## The Grgan in the Church.

THE service of the organ in the church is a question which should interest every thoughtful musician, and especially every one who accepts the position of organist in divine service. We notice that the word "voluntary" is still used to a certain extent in speaking of the opening and closing work in church service; that word ought to be obsolete. "Prelude" and "postlude" are the correct terms for organ work in opening and closing the service, "voluntary" would signify ad libitum, or at the will of the performer. We consider that every organist is in duty bound to make his organ work a part of the service, the prelude should breathe the spirit of prayer and adoration. It should "point to Heaven, and lead the way." The spirit and whole tendency of the music at this part of the service, should be of an elevating nature, restful to the weary, and a balm to the sorrowful. If it is not of this kind, then the organist has missed his calling.

It is a good rule for organists to follow, never to play anything which is not worth repeating if occasion requires. There is no excuse whatever, for any organist to simply "play against time," or to cover up the noise made by people coming in late. There is so much good organ music written now that it seems utterly needless to improvise, or merely play a "succession of sounds," as we have heard some organists do. The postlude of course admits of more freedom than the prelude. The organist should follow the sentiment of the service in its general bearings, and if the sermon happens to be of a type which would call for soft music in order to close with the best impression, then we should say play such music as is appropriate. John Ruskin has said: "Fitness is the first element of beauty," and it can be applied to music, as well as to any other art.

Some organists show a great fondness for the tremulant, which is beautiful in its place, and should be used for soft, distant effects. When used incessantly, it becomes very exasperating to a sensitive ear. There are others who insist on reed effects, trumpet, oboe, bassoon, whether in tune or out of tune (and they are often out of tune). Of course no organist can play to good advantage upon an organ which is out of tune,

and music committees are often very neglectful in this regard. Any pipe organ even under the best of conditions ought to be tuned sufficiently often to be kept in order. The material from which organ pipes are constructed, being both metal and wood, and heat and cold affecting these elements in an opposite manner, the different sets of pipes are constantly pulling against each other, especially in cold weather, where the church is not kept warm during the week, the thermometer varying from 20 below to 70 above zero.

Every organist should watch his organ closely, and when he finds some sets out of tune more than others, drop them and use only the best of the organ, until it is tuned again. We have heard really good organ music spoiled by the organist insisting on the use of some favourite stop, which was so outrageously out of tune, that it spoiled the whole organ.

Some people assert that organ music is not a part of the church service. We cannot agree with them. If the organist has any heart in his work, and any conception of the kind of music required to fit the service, the organ music will then become a very essential part of church worship. We once knew an organist who said, "I never know what I am going to play Sunday morning until I get to the church!" but he need not have told of it, for his hearers knew the same thing. "They looked for wheat, and he gave them chaff." "They that were ready went in unto the feast," is just as true now as it was in our Saviour's day, and any organist who expects to perform good, acceptable music for divine service, must play and practice in advance, on the same principle that the preacher prepares his work. No organist should trust to inspiration or luck to get through his work. Preparation and thoughtful attention to the work in hand will accomplish much more satisfactory and lasting results.

The greatest enemy of musical art may be found in the ranks of the musical profession. Self-interest influences even more than jealousy. Were not Beethoven very dead, his works would be performed less frequently.

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## Musical Notes and Queries.

By Orlando A. Mansfield, Mus. Doc., University of Toronto; F.R.C.O.; L. Mus. L.C.M.; L. Mus. T.C.L.

(Author of "The Student's Harmony," Editor of "The Woolhouse Edition," etc., etc.)

Almost all composers except, perhaps, those who have never experienced the misfortune of becoming the fashion, have suffered from unmerited exaltation or debasement. Some have experienced this in their lifetime: others have had the reputation enjoyed in life completely reversed after death; while around the lives of others the tide of popularity has alternately and repeatedly ebbed and flowed, both during and after the composer's lifetime. An instance of this, in the department of organ music, is afforded us in the case of the once popular French composer, Edouard Batiste. There was a time when almost every recital programme contained one of his works. Then came the inevitable reaction caused, for the most part, by the constant and irritating repetition of his smaller works by amateur organists of slender technical attainments. But the tide is turning again. Batiste's works will never be quite out of the fashion. They contain a point and piquancy of tune and rhythm to be found in few ordinary composers for the "king of instruments." Batiste's works will live.

I have been "guided" in the making of these remarks by the notice, in a recent programme of the Brixton Organ Recitals, of the performance, by Dr. Alcock, of Batiste's Grand Offertoire in D. To me this work has always appeared to be a fairly representative specimen of its composer's particular style; and, as such, I have often played it at organ recitals and openings. Indeed, only quite recently, its inclusion in one of my programmes brought down upon me the highly entertaining anger of an anonymous scribbler, in a local newspaper, for having performed "a flimsy and least desirable example of the modern French school." The same performance drew forth a letter from my first organ master congratulating me upon not having "forgotten the old favourites." need hardly say that, as the present notes afford abundant evidence, I have survived both letters; neither the amusement afforded by the first, nor the genuine pleasure derived from the second, having had any but a beneficial effect upon my general health and average temper. But the irony of it all lies in the fact that Batiste's chief work was not in the direction of organ music at all. It lay more in the direction of the teaching of singing and the compilation and arrangement of solfeggi. Yet in this country he is only remembered as a popular organ composer. His style remembered as a popular organ composer. His style is here regarded as that of the lightest. Yet Mons. Adolphe Jullien considered Batiste to be "a musician of severe and unerring taste." This opinion should be sufficient to silence those "superior" persons who affect to sneer at all organ music not expressed in the idiom of Bach or Rheinberger. "Severe and unerring is a high encomium. But Mons, Jullien knew m. Which is more than can be said of Batiste's English detractors.

Mr. Clement Harris has been lecturing at Crieff upon the subject of Stephen Heller. As Heller only passed away on the 14th of January, 1888, it is, as yet, rather early to "place" him. But Mr. Harris, while partially rejecting Barbedette's estimate of Heller's works as being "equal in importance to those of Chopin," effectively and opportunely reminds us of Dr. Riemann's verdict that "Heller rises above Mendelssohn in the choice, originality, and character of his ideals." This is high praise. Yet for too long a time Heller has been treated by certain pianists pretty much as Batiste has been treated by certain organists. Knowing only Heller's Studies and educational works, charming and instructive as they are, many have come to regard him as a writer for the student rather than for the artist. True it is, as Barbedette remarks: "His is the music of the fireside, and of the hours of retirement and meditation." But "the music of the fireside" is that which most easily and most powerfully, even if not most prominently, affects the musical progress of this country. At present it seems to me that England needs a first-rate composer of music for the fireside. We have enough of composers for the stage and the concert-room and, perhaps, too many for the church. But high-class music for the home is, apart from the standard classics, difficult to obtain. By the way, how charming some of Heller's pieces sound upon the organ. And how few of them have been so arranged.

A recent issue of the British Congregationalist contained a capital article entitled "Muck Rakes." In this there was, as Sir George Grove once expressed it to me, "so much entirely after my own mind," that I would like to make a few quotations. The writer deplores the "lack of soul, the lack of perception of the beautiful, and the abiding, the wilful rejection of the best, which is ever to be seen in the man—or the woman—with the muck-rake." The musical fare enjoyed by such people may be found in abundance at any of the 'alls. "Why go," says the writer, "to a really good concert when one can hear freak musicians, in grotesque attire, playing tricks with one of God's choicest gifts to man? Why trouble to go and hear the Messiah when —, the inimitable comedian, who gains a fortune by stupid foolery, is to be seen in his latest creation?" In the musical life and activity of this country I fear the "muck-rake" spirit is much more in evidence than the writer of the article quoted is aware of or would care to admit. To it we owe the decline of many a provincial choral union, or the sub-stitution for the latter of some frivolous operatic society. Its existence kept up the sale of the musical "pirates," who, as a rule, only dealt in a class of music no person of musical culture would care to buy. In the church this spirit is responsible for many of our wheezy old organs and inefficient choirs. It is also responsible for some of the empty pews in our churches. For unless churches give of their best both spiritually and musically they cannot hope to gather a large congregation. Even then the vision of a crowded church will sometimes tarry. But it will surely come. That is, of course, to churches and individuals whose aspirations, musical and otherwise, are upwards and not " of the earth, earthy."

## Echoes from the Churches.

METROPOLITAN.

OLD KENT ROAD.—On Sunday evening, Jan. 31st, a memorial service was held at Maze Pond Chapel, for the late organist, Mr. W. Dexter Miller. The church was crowded with a congregation from all parts of London, many well-known musical people being represented. The service was choral throughout, some of the favourite hymns, chants, and anthems of the deceased being sung.

THE CITY.—In spite of an exceptionally dense for on Thursday evening. Jan. 28th, a large number of people were courageous enough to attend the performance of Mendelssohn's "Athalie" and the "Hymn of Praise," given in the City Temple by the choir, under the direction of Mr. A. J. Hawkins. The soloists, Miss Maude Wilby, Miss Irene Marriott, Miss May Hayden, Miss Ada Hawkins, and Mr. Ernest Penfold, acquitted themselves remarkably well. Several numbers, including "He counteth all your sorrows," sung by Mr. Penfold, the duet, "I waited for the Lord," by Miss Wilby and Miss Marriott, and the duet, "My song shall be alway Thy merey," by Miss Wilby and Mr. Penfold, from the "Hymn of Praise," and several of the choruses from both works, called forth enthusiastic applause. The reciting by Miss Ellen Bowick of the declamatory passages from "Athalie" was particularly fine. Mr. Thomas J. Crawford, Mus. Bac., presided at the organ, and materially assisted towards the success of the evening. The chorus work was well taken up, and, in spite of their many difficulties, the two works were rendered in a very creditable manner.

WIMBLEDON.—A new organ, built by Messrs. Hunter & Son, has been erected in Queen's Road Baptist Church, and was opened on Jan. 20th, with a recital by Mr. Arthur R. Saunders, F.R.C.O. His opening selection was Mendelssohn's Organ Sonata No. 1, which he gave in a dignified and impressive manner. He then played S. Bennett's beautiful Barcarolle, from the pianoforte concerto, No. 4, and A. Guilmant's "Priere et Berceuse," a charming little piece. A silver collection was taken while the choir sang the "Hallelujah Chorus," which was rendered in splendid stylein fact, rarely have the choir acquitted themselves so admirably. The second portion of Mr. Saunder's recital, which was listened to with rapt attention, included Barnett's Offertoire in G major, in which orchestral effects were indicated with much success. Following this came Hollins' Allegretto Grazioso, a delightful little piece written for the softer combinations of the organ, and a Fantasia (F. Lux) on the familiar hymn "O Sanctissima." Here a series of variations, in which diverse tone combinations were brought into play, revealed a range from the most delicate tones to the full power of the instrument.

### PROVINCIAL.

AYLESBURY.—Mr. P. E. Young, the organist of the Congregational Church, has been presented with a silver tea set and tray from the minister and deacons, £10 10s. 0d. from the church, a silver coffee pot from the choir, and three candelabra from the P.S.A., on the occasion of his marriage.

BESSES, NEAR. MANCHESTER. -- The annual Tea Meeting in connection with the Congregational Church was held on Jan. 30th. Afterwards the Annual Meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. John Shuker, pastor. Mr. Guest, as treasurer, furnished details of his balance sheet, and the secretaries of the various movements identified with the church, read their reports during the meeting. The choir of the church was in attendance, and under the direction of Mr. Leaver gave the following programme:—Chorus, "The comrade's song of hope" (Adolphe Adam); song, "The love of angels" (Gerald Lane), Miss Eckersall; partsong, "Eldorada" (Pinsuti); song, "Should he upbraid" (Bishop), Miss McGuinness; part-song, "The Siesta" (Langdon Colborne); song, "Childhood's garden" (Amy Bedford-Wright), Mrs. Shields; song, "Vulcan's song" (Ch. Gounod), Mr. Green; pianoforte solo, "Pastorale" (Chaminade), Mrs. Ernest Leaver; part-song, "Watchman, what of the night" (Sullivan); part-song, "The haven" (Barnby). The choir, which now has 45 members, sung their pieces, unaccompanied, with fine effect, paying great attention to light and shade. Mrs. Shields, Miss McGuinness, and Mr. Green were awarded encores. The accompaniments were very ably sustained by Mrs. Ernest Leaver.

Boston.—Miss Simpson, organist of the Congregational Church, has been presented with a purse of gold in recognition of her services as organist.

GLASGOW.—We regret to record the death of Mr. William Greig, who for twenty-five years was honorary choirmaster at Trinity Congregational Church. It was through his instrumentality that Dr. A. L. Peace went to Glasgow; and Mr. Andrew Black, the well-known vocalist, owes his first appearance as a solo singer to him.

HYTHE, KENT.—The new organ in the Wesleyan Church, built by Mr. Spurden Rutt, of Leyton, to the specification of Mr. E. Minshall, was opened on January 27th, when large and enthusiastic congregations assembled. Miss Holden. of Folkestone, unlocked the organ, after which Mr. Allan H. Brown, A.R.C,O., gave a short recital which was much appreciated. After tea, an excellent programme was provided for the evening. Mr. Brown played six items, in which he displayed the various stops of the instrument, some of his pieces being encored. Miss Myfanwy Young (daughter of the superintendent minister, the Rev. David Young, who presided) sang in excellent style "I will extol Thee" (Costa) and "Lead Thou me on" (Wood). Mr. Herbert Stainer was successful in "Lord God of Abraham," and "Thou art passing hence" (Sullivan).

Miss M. Camburn tastefully played two violin solos. The choir contributed three anthems in vigorous style. Mrs. Walton and Mr. E. Walton were the efficient accompanists. On Sunday, Jan. 31st, the opening was continued when Mr. Minshall presided at the organ, and gave a short recital after the evening service. Special anthems were rendered by the choir, under the direction of Mr. Arthur Worthington, the organist of the church. Miss Myfanwy Young again assisted at the evening service. Appropriate sermons were delivered by the Revs. D. Young and D. C. Griffiths, the resident minister.

KNAR was well of high-ctunity of Mendelse nowned Trust F dale (so) A. B. A. B. A. Mr. J. E service structure of The property o

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Best; and the inchoir; so Mr. Ann (Bennet (Mendel Zion," of (Handel Miss Godley; tette by choir; i

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BRIXT Ha Concert

Prelude Prelude Scherzo Sympho "Eveni Cantile Fanfare (a) Me (b) Too

Suite C Cantilè (a) Ari (b) Gra Duet fo

Improv (a) Pa (b) Tri Overtu

Sonata Largo Overto Caprio Overto

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KNARESBORO'.—The Primitive Methodist Church was well filled on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 31st, lovers of high-class sacred music having an exceptional opportunity of hearing selections from the works of Handel, Mendelssohn, Sterndale Bennett, Stainer, and other re-Mendelssonn, Sterndale Bennett, Stainer, and other renowned composers. The proceeds were in aid of the
Trust Fund, and the soloists included Miss Chippindale (soprano), Miss Clara Godley (contralto), Mr.
A. B. Annakin (tenor), Mr. Fredk. Godley (bass), and
Mr. J. Best (organist). Starbeck Primitive Methodist
choir also rendered material assistance in making the

service a musical success, Mr. F. Godley conducting.

The programme comprised:—Organ prelude, Mr. The programme comprised:—Organ prelude, Mr. Best; anthem, "Awake, put on thy strength," Starbeck choir; solo, "If with all our hearts" (Mendelssohn), Mr. Annakin; solo, "O Lord, Thou hast searched me" (Bennett), Miss Godley; solo, "Lord God of Abraham" (Mendelssohn), Mr. Godley; anthem, "Daughter of Zion," choir; solo, "Every valley shall be exalted" (Handel), Mr. Annakin; solo, "Abide with me" (Liddle) Miss Godley; solo, "Psalm of life" (Cowen). Mr. Godley; anthem, "God is a Spirit" (Stainer), quartette by the principals; part-song, "Silent night," choir; Doxology.

OSWESTRY.—An Eisteddfod in connection with the Welsh Baptist Church was held in the Public Hall on Jan. 28th, Mr. Emlyn Davies, A.R.C.M., being the Adjudicator. The Male Voice Competition created much interest. Four choirs entered, the Vroncysyllte choir being victorious. The contest for Mixed Choirs was won by the Oswestry Wesleyan Church Choir.

SOWERBY.—A new organ, costing £625, has been erected in the Baptist Church.

## Recital Trogrammes.

BRIXTON.-In the Independent Chapel, by Mr. Sidney Hann, A.R.A.M.

Concert Overture	in C	minor			H. A. Fricker
Prelude to "Lohe			***	***	Wagner
Prelude and Fug	ue on l	BACH		***	Liszt
Scherzo in B flat	major	***			W. S. Hoyte
Symphonic Poem	, "Fin	lándia"		***	Sibeliu
"Evening Song"		***			Bairston
Cantilena	***			Clip	ford Demares:
Fanfare d'Orgue	(Etude	de Cor	ncert)	Harry	Rowe Shelley
(a) Meditation	***		***		E. d'Evry
(b) Toccata	***	***		***	**
			-		4

CLAYTON .- In the Congregational Church, by Mr. Alfred Hollins :-

Suite Gothique				Bo	ëllmaan
Cantilène		***	***	Wolst	enholme
(a) Aria from Suite i	n D		***	'	Back
(b) Grand Fugue in (	minor		***		"
Duet for Piano and C	rgan, Sch	erzo C	apricci	080G	uilmant
	o, Mr. Jol	in Jeff	erys.		
Improvisation		***	***	***	-
(a) Pastorale (new)	***	***	***	***	Hollins
(b) Triumphal March	1		***	***	. 99
(b) Triumphal March Overture, "William"	Tell"	***	***		Rossini
	7 200				

FOREST HILL.-In St. John's Presbyterian Church of England, by Dr. F. N. Abernethy :-

Sonata in F minor		Mendelssohn
Largo ("From the New World")	***	Dvorák
Overture to Tannhäuser	***	Wagner
Caprice and Marche aux Flambeaux	***	Guilmant
Overture	***	Hollins

HYTHE.-In the Wesleyan Church, by Mr. Allan H. Brown, A.R.C.O. :-

March in D flat				***	Lemaigre
Pastorale in E	***	***	***	***	Lemare
Chant Seraphique	***		***	***	Guilmant
"Sandon" with V	ariatio	ons			Smyth
Dramatic Fantasia		***			Nenkomn
O Sanctissima		***	***	***	Lux
Canzona	***				Wolstenholme
Capriccio			***	***	Lemaigre
Storm Fantasia		***		***	Lemens
Pastoral Scene	***	***	***		Dunstan
O Star of Eve	***	***	***	***	Wagner
Offertoire in D				***	Batiste
			_		

OLDHAM .- In the United Methodist Church, by Mr. William Lauton :-

Selection, "Tannhäuser"	***	***	***	***	Wagner
Fantasia, "Hanover"	***	***	***	***	Dicks
Scherzo		***	***		Hoffman
Overture, "Poet and Pea	sant"	400	***		Suppe
Prelude and Fugue in D		***	***	***	. Back
Fanfare		***	***	- 40	Ascher

TORQUAY .- In Belgrave Church, by Dr. Orlando A. Mansfield:

Pastorale in G, from the Concerto for Strings, Op. 6, No. 8 ... ... Arcangeto Corelli W. T. Best Allegro in C ... ... ... Andantino in A minor—"Noël"... Th. Dubois "The Holy Night" (Noël) [Fantasia in A on two Christmas Carols] ... Dudley Buck

Christmas Pastorale (Weihnachtspastorale) in G, Op. 56 ... Gustav Merkel (1827-1885)

Mendelssohn Programme: Mendelsoohn Programme:—
Prelude and Fugue in G, Op. 37, No. 2 (composed in 1837)
Songs without Words (Lieder ohne Worte).

(a) Andante Maestoso, in E minor, Op. 62, No. 3.

(b) Adagio non Troppo, in E, Op. 30, No. 3 ("Consolation")
(c) Moderato, in A, Op. 19, No. 4 ("Confidence")
Sonata in D minor, Op. 65, No. 6 (composed in Jan., 1845).
Solo and Chorus—"O for the Wings of a Dove" (composed Jan., 1844), arranged by W. T. Best.

Wedding March, from the music to "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Op. 61 (composed in 1843). arranged by

Dream," Op. 61 (composed in 1843), arranged by W. T. Best.

WIMBLEDON.-In Queen's Road Baptist Church, by Mr. Arthur R. Saunders, F.R.C.O. :-Organ Sonata, No. 1

Barcarolle, from the Pianoforte Concerto, No. 4 S. Bennett . A. Guilmant Offertoire in G major ... J. F. Barnett Allegretto Grazioso A. Holling Fantasia on the hymn, "O Sanctissima"...

## To Correspondents.

G.E.R.-Stainer's Harmony Primer (Novello) is the book you want.

S.T.-We do not know it. Try Augener & Co.

VIOLINST:-Yes, hear as many of the best players as you can. That, in addition to lessons, will help you much.

VOCALIST. -You had better consult a Voice Specialist.

The following are thanked for their communications:—J. J. (Glasgow), T. B. (Shrewsbury), E. E. (Manchester), R. D. S. (Leamington), W. J. (Eccles), T. T. A. (Aberdeen), C. J. (Highbury), D. F. (Peterborough), A. S. M. (Bedford).

## Choir Training.

A SERIES OF ARTICLES FOR CHOIRMASTERS. BY CHAS. JESSOP, F.T.S.C.

CHAPTER I.

It is not to the choirmaster of long experience that these remarks are addressed, but to the novice, the new hand, the man who has probably just been promoted from the ranks of one choir to be commander-in-chief of another, for, strange to say, it is seldom that the members of a choir will take kindly to the ruling of one promoted from their own ranks, however ambitious and clever he

The choirmaster, who has held his appointment over a number of years, will (if his methods have been good, if he has been well up to his work and has really loved it) have gathered round him a loyal and loving band of willing helpers. He will have "grown his own" sopranos and contraltos, cultivated his own tenors and basses, and that with the same watchful care that a successful horticulturist bestows on his flowers. Some of the former will be ladies whom he first made a note of fifteen or twenty years ago, when, on Sundayschool anniversary occasions he invited them to make their first attempts at solo singing, later on finding places for them in the choir, keeping a careful eye on their voices during the critical period when the girl-voice gradually gives way to the rounder, fuller, richer and more resonant woman's voice. He will have recognised the necessity of guarding against strain at this period, never losing an opportunity of tendering his fatherly advice as to the care of their voices, and never allowing them to let zeal outrun discretion, however vigorous the music might be.

His tenors and basses will some of them have been boys in the choir-not necessarily altos. When the breaking of their voices has necessitated their leaving he has been careful not to lose sight of them, and when three or four years later the adult voice has become sufficiently manageable to make use of, he has invited them to resume their

membership.

He has thus built for himself a force which he can wield and mould to his own liking. imbued them with his own tastes and ideas, and

his will is their will.

A very different picture is that of the man who has held his appointment over a similar period but whose methods have lacked judgment. He has held his post not on account of his fitness for it, but because having once been installed he could not be removed without fear of disturbing the foundations of the church. He has other interests, and the music of the church is only a very secondary consideration. He may be a very good fellow, and a good Christian, but as choirmaster he is a square peg in a round hole. The idea of giving way to a younger man-a man with enthusiasm for the work-never occurs to him, and if it is suggested he declines to consider it. What is the result? He has sopranos who scoop, others who whoop, breathy contraltos who sing as through a fog-horn, tenors who bawl, and basses

who growl, both given to forcing their registers in a dreadful way, making piano singing, unaccompanied by flattening, an absolute impossibility, It is a choir in name only. The voices he ought to have trained he has only succeeded in spoiling. Any new comers with good voices have either declined to join the choir, or have quickly fallen into the bad habits which characterise the older members, and improvement can only be brought about either by an entire reconstruction of the choir, or by a very gradual process of evolution in the hands

of a thoroughly capable man.

To the young choirmaster I say, recognise at the outset that you have enormous difficulties to face on taking up an appointment if you wish to make a success of it—whether it be with a newly formed choir, an old-established choir, or, as is sometimes the case, no choir at all worth speaking of. In the latter instance you will have your choir to build, and it is more than likely that it is in such a position that you will ultimately secure the best results, provided you use judgment in the selection of voices, and go the right way about training them. Voices once accepted are difficult to get rid of. Raucous voices there are in plenty, voices that no amount of careful training can make satisfactory, and their presence in any choir is a terrible "thorn in the flesh" to a conscien-tious choirmaster. The eliminating of them is always a delicate and often a dangerous business. Better a small body of voices that will blend, than a larger one containing voices that are raspy, penetrating, hard and unsympathetic in quality.

We cannot do better, however, than begin with the supposition that the choir you are invited to take charge of is just an average one for a Nonconformist church. You may have, perhaps, a dozen sopranos, half of whom are girls just brought out of the Sunday-school, and who as yet lack experience. Some of these may later develop their lower registers and turn out to be contraltos. first care should be to see that their voices are never allowed to be strenuously used at the extremes. It is not by any means necessary that they should be dispensed with, but! up to the age of 17 or 18 they should not be encouraged to use their voices above mf. This does not of course mean that they are to be allowed to sing in a careless, free and easy, lackadaisical style. There are being be no inertia. Soft singing, to do it well, requires as much effort as loud, but of an entirely different kind. Indeed, more care and alertness is required for piano than for forte effects, especially where the voices are few in number. With these young voices any attempt to strain for either high or low notes is bound to have a deleterious effect. All very high notes should be left to the older voices, and they should be taught to produce them in the right way. (A carefully selected and properly graded course of exercises, with full instructions as to their use will be given later).

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Of contraltos you will probably have but three or four. They should be ladies. The custom that obtains in some districts of making all boys into altos is entirely wrong. Not more than one boy in ten has an alto voice. Make use of boys by all means if you have any with decent voices, and know how to manage them. Their voices blend very well with ladies', and brighten the tone up wonderfully, but take care to place them with the part to which their voices belong. Far better be without altos altogether than cause a treble voice to be constantly singing an alto part.

Your tenor department will probably present the greatest difficulties. Good tenors are scarce, but there are plenty who elect to sing bass who, if they but knew it, are in reality tenors who have neglected to develop their upper registers. You may find a half dozen voices singing bass, but perhaps not more than two or three of them will be basses. So called baritones abound, and it is quite certain that a large proportion would, if

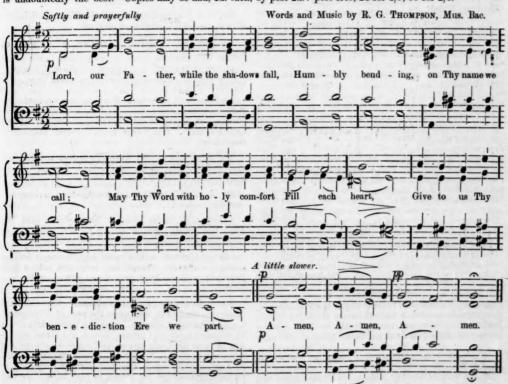
taken in hand at the right age by a capable trainer, have developed really good tenor voices. Several years' neglect of the upper registers bring about their complete loss as certainly as neglecting to use a limb for a similar period would bring about an inability to use it at all. In their constant striving to produce low notes they have evolved a woolly, muffled, breathy kind of tone which is of little use, whereas with proper training at the right time they might have had several bright resonant notes at the other end of their voices, and with much less effort than that they have expended to procure those feeble, breathy low ones. It will be little use, however, trying to induce such basses to try their hands (or rather their voices) at singing the tenor part if for eight or ten years they have been struggling with the bass part. You will have to make the best of them, and trust to the future to provide you with . more tenors, or whatever voices you may need in order to make your choir an evenly balanced one.

(TO BE CONTINUED).

## Trize-winning Vesper Hymn and Threefold Amen.

The Prize of £3 3s. offered for the best Vesper has been awarded to Mr. R. G. Thompson, Mus. Bac., Stockton-on-Tees.

A number of good compositions were submitted. Several competitors put themselves "out of court" by writing melodies up to F# and G. Some Vespers were mere exercises in modulations, and abounded in them. Four competitors ran Mr. Thompson very close, but for general suitability the Vesper here printed is undoubtedly the best. Copies may be had, 1d. each, by post 2d.: post free, 24 for 1/9, 36 for 2/6.



The copying of the above into Manuscript Books, etc., is an offence againt British law.

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## Grgan News.

TORQUAYB	elgrave	Congre	gatic	onal Cl	hurch.
GREAT	ORGA	N-CC	to /	A-58	notes.

*1-Double Open Diapason	16ft.	Metal	CC to A	58 pipes
2—Open Diapason	8ft.	**		33
*3—Horn Diapason	8ft.	**	99	. 99
*4—Hohlflute	8ft.	39	93	13
5—Principal	4ft.	91	23	99
6—Flute Harmonique	4ft.	39	99	99
7—Twelfth	23ft.	19	99	99
8—Fifteenth	2ft.	33	39	
9—Mixture (3 Ranks)				174 pipes
10-Trumpet	8ft.			58

### SWELL ORGAN-CC to A-58 notes.

11-Lieblich Bourdon	16ft.	Wood	CC to	A 58 pipe
12—Violin Open Diapason		Metal	- 39	99
13—Lieblich Gedact		Wood	99	1,93
14—Salicional	8ft.	Metal	93	91
*15—Vox Angelica	8ft.	" Т	enor C t	
				46 pipe
16—Gemshorn	4ft.	" €	C to G	58 "
17—Harmonic Piccolo	2ft.	99	**	58 "
18-Mixture (3 Ranks)				174

8ft.

## 20-Oboe 8ft. ,

#### CHOIR ORGAN—CC to A-58 notes.

22—Stopped Diapason and Clarabella	8ft.	Wood	CC to A	58 pipe
23—Dulciana	8ft.	Metal	**	39
*24—Viola da Gamba	8ft.		99	39
*25—Wald Flute		Wood	99	99
*26—Flageolet *27—Spare Slide	2ft.	Metal	59	99
at obate onde				

#### Soro Opgan CC to A-58 notes

OLO ORGAN	00 00	21 00	MOTOS.		
28—Clarinet	8ft.	Metal	Tenor C	to I	1
				46	pipe
*29—Orchestral Oboe		39	CC to A	58	99
*30-Vox Humana	99	39	**	58	99
*31—Unda Maris	99	" T	enorČ to A		
*32—Echo Dulciana	99	99	CC to A	58	99

#### \*33—Tremulant \*34—Spere Slide

\*19-Horn

#### PEDAL ORGAN-CCC to F-30 notes

I EDAL ORGAN		10 T	DO HOTOS		
35—Grand Open Diapason	16ft.	Wood	CCC to	F 30	pipe
36—Grand Bourdon	. 99		99	30	9)
*37—Violone (from No. 1)	19	Metal	99	‡30	99
†38 Echo Bourdon (from		337 3		+00	
No. 11)	99	Wood	59	130	99
†39—Octave (from No. 35)	8ft.	31	33	§30	99
†40—Bass Flute (from No. 36	) 39	35.4.1	>>	§30	19
*41—Violoncello (from No. 1	) "	Metal	27. 43	130 1 brro	22
			§ 18	borro	

#### COUPLERS

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*42—Solo super-Sve	*46-Swell to Choir
*43—Swell super-8ve	*47—Choir to Great
*44—Swell sub-8ve	48—Swell to Pedals
45—Swell to Great	49—Great to Pedals
	*50—Choir to Pedals

#### ACCESSORIES.

Four Composition Pedals to Great Organ and Pedal Organ. Four Composition Pedals to Swell Organ. Double-acting Pedal for Great to Pedals. Lever Swell Pedals for Swell and Solo Organ.

The Stops on the Swell and Solo Organs are enclosed in separate Swell Boxes.

The actions of the Solo, Choir, and Pedal Organs are pneumatic; those of the Great and Swell Organs being improved tracker actions. LIANRHAIADR.—Wesleyan Church. Specification of Organ built by Norman & Beard, Ltd., of London and Norwich.

#### GREAT ORGAN-CC to A-58 notes. Metal 58 pipes Open Diapason 8 feet Wald Flute Wood 8 -Dulciana Metal 58 Principal -Harmonic Flute 58 ,, 99 1 -Flautina 2 58

## SWELL ORGAN—CC to A—58 notes.

7—Open Diapason	8 feet	Metal-wood	58	99
8—Rohr Flute	8 ,,	Wood .	58	**
9—Salicional	8 "	Metal	58	99
10-Voix Celeste	8	**	46	99
11—Gemshorn	4	,,	58	
12—Oboe	8	**	56	

#### PEDAL ORGAN-CCC to F-30 notes.

13-Bourd	on	16	feet	Wood	:	30	**
14—Bass	Flute	(R	emainder	derived	from	12 No.	"3)
		-					

#### COUPLERS.

15-Swell	Octave	17—Swell	to	Pedal
16—Swell	to Great	18—Great	to	Pedal

#### ACCESSORIES.

Two Composition Pedals to Great. Two Composition Pedals to Swell. Balanced Swell Pedal.

Tubular-pneumatic action throughout.

## Staccato Notes.

Mr. R. J. Stannard has gained the Mercer's Scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music.

The Bristol Festival resulted in a loss of £432 6s. 7d.

Sir Frederick Bridge lectured on "Some Seventeenth Century Instruments," at Gresham College.

The Sheffield Amateur Musical Society made its first appearance in London on Feb. 4th, and sang the choruses in Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," at the Queen's Hall. The Choir made a most favourable impression.

The King and Queen were present at the Concert arranged by Mr. John McCormack in aid of the Earthquake Relief Fund.

Mr. J. L. Molloy, the well-known song writer, has just died, aged 71.

"Oddity in music goes a long way," said Sir Frederick Bridge, the other day, in a lecture. "The more odd you look the better you are thought of."

Jimmy Curwell, a Liverpool boy, formerly selling newspapers in the streets, has developed into a brilliant pianoforte player, and shows some genius as a composer.

Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, the German-American contralto, who sings the part of Clytemnestra in Strauss's "Electra," says the vocal parts are a thunderous medley of groans, moans, and sighs, requiring intense dramatic power and endless outbursts of fury and passion. To get his effects Strauss wanted animals on the stage. The management consented to lambs and donkeys, but struck at real bulls. By way of compromise Strauss agreed to accept live cows which will wear bulls' horns!

THIS WAS on "Voice gave an s in Londo

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## How to Sing.

This was the subject upon which Dr. Hulbert, lecturer on "Voice and Health" to the University of London, gave an address at the recent I. S. M. Conference held in London.

Dr. Hulbert began by remarking that his endeavour would be to prove that there was a scientific basis to vocal culture, a science that had the power to throw light upon the darkness of many vocal mysteries, which would make the brazen charlatan blush for shame, and strengthen the work of the honest teacher. He did not propose to deal with the artistic side of voice work, but with what might be called the inartistic side of vocal culture—the culture that ended with the production of tone—the musical result of the perfect working of the whole of the vocal mechanism, as opposed to the subtle change of voice, which would be better described as intonation. Intonation, or colouration of tone, to suit the particular thought or sentiment that was being expressed by the performer in song or speech, was quite different from tone, and required an artistic temperament for its rendition. That, he believed, had no scientific basis beyond that afforded by psychology. As a medical man, he might be allowed to point out that there appeared to him to be an artistic temperament which here it is a likely because the second secon ment which was of incalculable value to the performer, and another kind that was almost a disease, the possession of which had been described to him as being a curse by more than one poor sufferer. It seemed to him that the artistic side could be best balanced by a careful scientific training and that the timescape of the second careful scientific training, and that the time spent by the artist in acquiring scientific knowledge might have a two-fold result-mental balance and knowledge.

#### PRODUCTION OF TONE.

"Is it possible," he asked, "through science to cultivate the voice of any individual up to the point of mere tone?" Provided there were no organic defects in the vocal machinery, or want of what was called "an ear for music," or want of willingness to work on the part of the individual, there was no reason, he added, why the defects in the voice of that individual could not be removed by the scientific treatment of a skilled and patient teacher; but only up to the point of tone. It was astonishing what the artistic temperament could accomplish without tone. Colouration of sound, like charity, covered a multitude of vocal sins. (Laughter). The students of to-day too often began their voice training by singing songs, and expected the constructive work to take care of itself, starting at the end instead of at the beginning. Voice-trainers could be roughly divided into three classes: (1) Those who, mistaking fads for science, made a great parade of their methods; (2) Those who professed to follow Nature, ignoring science altogether; (3) Those who felt that there must be definite help to be obtained from science; they made great efforts to find the scientific truths, which should form the basis of their work, but became quite bewildered in their search after the truth from the contradictory statements made by the various authorities on voice.

#### VOCAL CULTURE.

"Laryngological examinations," continued Dr. Hulbert, "are of the highest importance to the throat specialists, but are of very little use to the practical voice-trainers. The muscles that move the vocal cords are involuntary; the singer has no direct control over them. By an act of will the cords become approximated, leaving only a narrow space, called the glottis, between them; through this space passes the out-going air, and makes the cords vibrate; the cords, by vibrat-

ing, make the air vibrate (that which passes into the upper air passages and that which is still in the lower part); this column of vibrating air stretching from the floor of the chest to the upper part of the air passages constitutes voice, and the proper management of this column of vibrating air is what is meant by vocal culture." The scientific basis of vocal culture, he added, consisted of the physiology of the perfect poise of the muscles of the vocal apparatus. The true artist, when facing his audience, had perfect control over himself in every way. He was careful to assume the right attitude. He was neither too prodigal nor too lavish with his gestures. He expressed with his face, and especially with his eyes, the feelings or sentiments that were uppermost in his mind; and thus he brought his body into subjection to his well-disciplined mind. These sentiments could only be conveyed from the mind of the performer to the minds of the audience by the vehicle, the voice, as speech or song. This speech or song was the result of the poise of the vocal apparatus; that was, of the co-ordinated movement of the muscles of the respiratory, the vocal, and the speech organs.

#### DEEP BREATHING.

But inasmuch as it was impossible to train a special part of the body in particular without attending to the body as a whole in general, poise of the body itself must be included in voice training. The co-ordination of the respiratory organs included the regulation of the inspiration both as regards quantity and quality. The amount of air taken in must be in strict proportion to the length of the phrases, both in speech and song. If the phrases were long, the inspiration must be great in quantity; but if medium or short, the amount be less. Usually this was taught by what was called "deep breathing." a harmful procedure, consisting of strained and exaggerated movements, which, so far from making the chest wall elastic (a sine qua non of voice), made the chest wall stiff, and to a certain extent damaged the delicate lung tissue, paving the way towards emphysema or some similar unhealthy affection. He added that, if they wanted to have a large chest and to get results quickly, the best thing they could do would be to invest in a cornet, blow it as hard as they could, and at the same time run as fast as they could. (Laughter.) They would then get emphy-sema or some other trouble later. The articulatory or speech organs exercised a very important influence on voice, and voice-placing had ever been a powerful factor in singing and speaking. Music in song and speech might be said to be almost entirely dependent upon the vowel sounds. These sounds were in turn dependent upon the shapes made in the mouth, and upon the vibrating column of air being held in these The power of performing these two functions was obtained by exercises which would develop mobility of the muscles of the mouth, the lips, the tongue, the soft palate, and the jaw. There must not be any undue constriction of the muscles of the throat; the whole of the upper part of the vocal tube must be as open as the pitch of the note would allow. "It seems clear," concluded Dr. Hulbert, "that perfect poise of the body in general, and of the voice in particular, forms the scientific basis of vocal culture which produces music in speech and song."

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